

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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O 021020Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 4968

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0993

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MZ US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE VISIT OF SECRETARY

REF: STATE 216028

1. EMBASSY HAS LEARNED THAT PRESIDENT MACHEL WILL PROBABLY BE LEAVING MAPUTO SOMETIME THIS WEEKEND (TANZANIAN AMBASSADOR THOUGHT MIGHT BE AS EARLY AS SATURDAY) FOR MEETING IN DAR ES SALAAM WITH FOUR FRONT-LINE PRESIDENTS AND ZIMBABWEAN LIBERATION LEADERS. HOW LONG HE WILL STAY IN DAR WE DO NOT KNOW.

2. ABSENCE OF MACHEL FROM MAPUTO WILL MAKE IT MUCH MORE DIFFICULT FOR US TO PIN DOWN SCHEDULE AND TO MAKE ADVANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SECRETARY'S VISIT. NO ONE IN MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENT WILL MOVE TO FACILITATE VISIT UNTIL MACHEL PERSONALLY GIVES THE GREEN LIGHT TO VISIT.

3. EMBASSY CAN PROBABLY OBTAIN AIRPORT VISAS FOR THREE OR FOUR ADVANCE PARTY WITHOUT HAVING TO DISCLOSE PURPOSE. REQUESTS FOR ANY MORE VISAS, RENTAL OF VEHICLES (WHICH EXCEEDINGLY SPARSE IN MAPUTO) AND BOOKING OF MORE THAN A HALF-DOZEN OR SO ROOMS IN HOTEL WILL INEVITABLY RAISE QUESTIONS AND REQUIRE EXPLANATION.

4. ONE WAY OF HANDLING THIS WOULD BE FOR ME TO TRY TO SEE MACHEL BEFORE HE DEPARTS FOR DAR. I WOULD TELL HIM THAT WHILE IT NOT YET KNOWN WHETHER SECRETARY WILL VISIT AFRICA, IT

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IMPORTANT THAT EMBASSY MAKE CERTAIN ADVANCE ARRANGEMENTS IN

EVENT HE DOES. I WOULD ALSO FIND OUT FROM HIM IF SEPTEMBER 11 IS ACCEPTABLE CONTINGENCY DATE FOR VISIT MAPUTO. IF FOR SOME REASON THIS DATE NOT CONVENIENT FOR MACHEL, I WOULD EXPLORE OTHER DATES. MY MEETING WITH MACHEL WOULD ALSO GIVE US OPPORTUNITY LEARN IF MACHEL HAS STRONG IDEAS ON HOW VISIT SHOULD BE HANDLED.

5. IF MACHEL AGREES TO DATE FOR VISIT, I WOULD ASK HIM IF HE WOULD DESIGNATE A SENIOR OFFICIAL WITH WHOM EMBASSY COULD WORK IN MAKING ARRANGEMENTS ONCE VISIT BECOMES PUBLIC. I WOULD STRESS OF COURSE THAT THIS IS CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND THAT WE STILL DO NOT KNOW FOR CERTAIN THAT SECRETARY WILL BE COMING TO AFRICA.

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